Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 January 2007

Daily Highlights

- The New Mexican reports a $24 million road security project began Monday morning, January 8, as part of the government's effort to better protect Los Alamos National Laboratory; all vehicles including recreational and motor homes are subject to inspection. (See item 4)

- The Coast Guard says a package that was going to be loaded onto a cruise ship at the Port of Miami tested positive for plastic explosives and was destroyed Monday, January 8; the FBI is monitoring the situation. (See item 17)

- New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday, January 8, that the source of a mysterious gas smell that covered a wide area of the city and was also detected across the Hudson River in New Jersey remains unknown, but there was no indication that air is unsafe to breathe. (See item 38)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: **Energy**; **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials**; **Defense Industrial Base**

Service Industries: **Banking and Finance**; **Transportation and Border Security**; **Postal and Shipping**

Sustenance and Health: **Agriculture**; **Food**; **Water**; **Public Health**

Federal and State: **Government**; **Emergency Services**

IT and Cyber: **Information Technology and Telecommunications**; **Internet Alert Dashboard**

Other: **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons**; **General**; **DHS Daily Report Contact Information**

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *January 08, Daily Yomiuri (Japan)* — **Japan, U.S. to sign nuclear power plant finance deal.** The Japanese and U.S. governments Sunday, January 7, reached a basic agreement to jointly

finance the construction of nuclear power plants in the U.S., with Washington providing debt guarantees and Tokyo trade insurance. The agreement will help boost Japanese companies' presence in the U.S. –– the world's largest energy consumer, where many firms plan to build nuclear power plants. An official agreement will be reached Tuesday, January 9, when visiting Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Akira Amari meets with U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman. Since Japanese technology proved indispensable during the construction of nuclear power plants built recently, Japanese companies are expected to participate in the construction of all the plants in the U.S. under a Japan–U.S. corporate alliance. With construction of new nuclear power plants becoming difficult in Japan, firms now view helping to construct plants in the U.S. as a way to improve their technology and train engineers. Because of this, the alliance between Japanese and U.S. firms is tipped to grow.
Source: http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/business/20070108TDY01004.htm

2. *January 08, HeraldNet (WA)* — **Fewer than 100 homes without power after storm in Washington.** Fewer than 100 households were without power Sunday evening, January 7, and Snohomish County, WA, Public Utilities District (PUD) officials expected that power would be fully restored by Monday morning, January 8, PUD spokesperson Mike Thorne said. Less than a month after their last bout with downed trees and power outages, a windstorm Friday night, January 5, and Saturday morning, January 6, wreaked havoc –– this time, mostly in Snohomish County, Island County, and parts of western Skagit County. Sustained wind speeds of 30 mph and gusts up to 60 mph ravaged the lower elevations. Downed trees and power lines blocked traffic on state roads and highways, cut power to nearly 140,000 homes, and severely damaged at least one house in Everett. Snohomish County PUD reported 105,000 customers without power in the early morning hours on Saturday. Thirty utility crews, some from Eastern Washington and Oregon, worked all day restoring power to all but about 8,000 PUD customers by Saturday evening. Puget Sound Energy estimated 6,700 customers were without power by nightfall Saturday, down from 34,000 at the height of the storm.
Additional information: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2003513342_weather07m.html
Source: http://heraldnet.com/stories/07/01/08/100loc_b8wind001.cfm

3. *January 08, Associated Press* — **One killed and dozen injured by power plant explosion in Ohio.** An explosion killed one person and injured about a dozen others Monday, January 8, at a coal–burning power plant in southeastern Ohio, utility officials said. The blast occurred as workers were unloading hydrogen gas used as a coolant for steam generators at the Muskingum River plant, but it was not clear what exploded, said Melissa McHenry, a spokesperson for American Electric Power, based in Columbus. Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks had said earlier that a boiler exploded but it was unclear if that was the case.
Source: http://www.columbusdispatch.com/news–story.php?story=238582

4. *January 07, New Mexican* — **Car screening to start for Los Alamos National Laboratory.** In New Mexico, a $24 million road security project is scheduled to greet many Los Alamos commuters Monday morning, January 8, as part of the government's effort to better protect Los Alamos National Laboratory. The level of vehicle screening depends on the lab's current security condition. All vehicles are subject to inspection, and all recreational vehicles and motor homes will be required to stop for a check. A spokesperson for the National Nuclear Security Administration said everything is ready to go. "We'll have guards at the stations so we can

make sure that the traffic gets through smoothly," spokesperson Bernie Pleau said. "It's part of the designed security for the site, to protect those facilities that need to be protected." Current security conditions don't require any identification check, the lab reported in a recent news release. And current security conditions allow people who do not work at the lab to go through the checkpoints also. Cars and motorcycles will be stopped briefly and allowed to proceed after a signal from a security officer, the lab reports.
Source: http://www.freenewmexican.com/news/54834.html

5. *January 05, Reuters* — **U.S. approves LNG terminal offshore of Louisiana.** The U.S. Maritime Administration has given final approval to a McMoRan Exploration Co. plan to convert a sulphur–production platform off Louisiana into a liquefied natural gas import terminal, a McMoRan spokesperson said Friday, January 5. "Now we go back to suppliers and our focus now is on getting a supply of LNG and putting together financing," said McMoRan spokesperson William Collier. "The final design and construction process will take about three years." The project involves converting existing offshore platform facilities worth $150 million into a $1 billion LNG receiving, regasification, storage and pipeline project, Collier said.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN& storyID=2007–01–05T213400Z_01_N05289289_RTRIDST_0_LNG–MCMORA N–APPROVAL.XML&rpc=66&type=qcna

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *January 04, Associated Press* — **One injured in explosion at Electric Boat laboratory.** One worker was injured when a methane gas leak caused an explosion in an Electric Boat laboratory in Groton, CT, Thursday, January 4. That laboratory and two adjacent buildings were evacuated.
Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/connecticut/ny–bc–ct– –electricboat–expl0104jan04,0,5625832.story?coll=ny–region–a pconnecticut

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *January 05, Federal Times* — **New law subjects contractors to military justice.** During an argument, a civilian contractor utters a few unprintable words to a military officer. Under newly revised law, the contractor may be court–martialed. The same new rules may apply to contractors who drink alcohol or possess pornography in countries where it is forbidden, commit adultery or fraternize. A five–word revision of the U.S. legal code, passed virtually unnoticed by Congress last fall, would make U.S. civilians working for the U.S. military in Iraq, Afghanistan or other "contingency operations" subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Before the revision, contractors were governed by the UCMJ only in times of declared wars. The change was intended to close a legal loophole that has enabled contract personnel to escape punishment for violating the law, said Peter Singer, a military scholar at the Brookings Institution. But a result may be that contractors now can be punished for actions not

ordinarily prosecutable under U.S. law, said Stan Soloway, president of the Professional Services Council. The new law appears to impose the UCMJ on contractors working for the military in contingency operations, Soloway said. The UCMJ's "behavioral requirements are very different and potentially in conflict with contract law and criminal law," Soloway said.
Source: http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2464127

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *January 08, Federal Computer Week* — **DoD attempts to fight spear phishing scams.** The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to battle increasingly sophisticated attacks against its information systems and networks, including significant and widespread attempts to penetrate systems with spear phishing. The department has fought back with requirements that users log on to networks with a Common Access Card (CAC) that electronically verifies their identities and digitally signs e−mail messages with the key contained on that card. It has also required the use of plain text e−mail messages and converts HTML messages to plain text because HTML can contain programming code that plants keystroke loggers, viruses and other malware on computers, according to a Joint Task Force−Global Network Operations (JTF−GNO) presentation on spear phishing awareness training that all DOD employees and contractors must complete by January 17. The Army expects attacks to continue, according to a statement provided by Army Chief Information Officer Lt. Gen. Steve Boutelle's office. "As both the sophistication and availability of technology increase, we expect attacks and intrusions to increase," it states. A JTF−GNO spokesperson said the DoD backbone network, the Global Information Grid, is scanned millions of times a day by outsiders, but he declined to characterize the type of attacks DoD networks face. DoD also declined to identify the source of the attacks.
Source: http://www.fcw.com/article97281−01−08−07−Print&printLayout

9. *January 05, Finextra (UK)* — **UK bird flu tests expose contingency planning weaknesses.** UK banks are being forced to re−evaluate contingency strategies to ensure businesses remain open in the event of a bird flu epidemic after a planning exercise organized by UK regulators found that increased staff absences could lead to branch closures and empty cash machines. The mock exercise, which involved the UK's Tripartite authorities and ran for six weeks between October 13 and November 24, found that absence rates at financial firms could top 60 percent in some business units in the event of a pandemic. Across the financial sector as a whole, the heaviest impact of a pandemic would be upon the provision of customer−facing retail financial services. The report on the exercise says "bottlenecks" were caused in the distribution of cash. Growing staff shortages forced the high street banks to close an increasing number of branches, which reduced the availability of services, including ATMs. Furthermore, banks would not be able to replace expired debit and credit cards, which could leave customers without cash access. The report called for the creation of a "coordinated strategy" to deal with these issues.
Source: http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16330

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *January 08, Associated Press* — **NTSB investigates DC subway derailment.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on Monday, January 8, was investigating what caused a subway train to derail near downtown Washington, injuring at least 20 people, one seriously. Witnesses said people started to panic Sunday afternoon, January 7, when the six−car train began shaking. Some passengers ran to the back of the train as it approached the underground Mount Vernon Square station. Glass and metal debris was strewn through the tunnel after the derailment, and one person had a serious but not life−threatening injury, Metro spokesperson Cathy Asato said. About 150 people were on the train at the time. After NTSB investigators examined the scene, Metro workers began removing the train. The Mount Vernon station opened on time Monday morning, but speed restrictions were in place through the area, Asato said. "Right now the focus of the investigation is the rail and the car," said Kitty Higgins, a member of the NTSB. The incident followed two accidents in 2006 in which three Metro track workers were struck and killed. Federal investigators at the time questioned whether the train operators were following safety procedures. Higgins said the number of recent accidents was "cause for concern…."
Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SUBWAY_DERAILMENT?SIT E=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

11. *January 08, Associated Press* — **Phoenix fliers may soon get more check−in sites.** Passengers traveling through Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport could begin checking in for flights at airport locations other than ticket counters as early as this fall, airport officials said. The Phoenix City Council is expected to vote by next month whether to allow the airport to begin looking for a company to manage the new service, called remote baggage check−in. If approved, that company would set up kiosks at Sky Harbor's economy parking garages and lots and at the rental−car center. Company representatives would give passengers their boarding passes and make sure their bags are checked onto the appropriate flight. Passengers who use the service probably would have to pay a fee between $5 and $20, according to Sky Harbor. The service is designed to save travelers time by allowing them to avoid lengthy lines. The service already is in place at more than a dozen airports in the country, including Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Atlanta, and San Francisco. If the plan moves forward, the Transportation Security Administration must approve the company the airport hires, and all employees would have to submit to a fingerprint−based criminal history check. All baggage would still be screened under federally mandated security standards.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007−01−08−phoenix−ai rport−remote−baggage−check−in_x.htm

12. *January 08, Department of Transportation* — **Federal Railroad Administration approves Positive Train Control system.** Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph H. Boardman on Monday, January 8, announced approval of the first Positive Train Control (PTC) system capable of automatically controlling train speed and movements to prevent certain accidents, including train collisions. Specifically, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approved the BNSF Railway's Product Safety Plan for its Electronic Train Management System (ETMS), an overlay technology that augments and supplements existing train control methods. Boardman explained that ETMS employs both digital communications and a global positioning system to monitor train location and speed within track authority limits to prevent certain types

of accidents, including train collisions. The ETMS system includes an in–cab electronic display screen that will first warn of a problem and then automatically engage the train,s braking system if a locomotive engineer fails to act in accordance with operating instructions, he said. The FRA action allows BNSF to implement ETMS on 35 specific freight lines in 17 states, and requires appropriate employee training before it can be initiated. Deployment of the technology to additional BNSF rail lines or an expansion of ETMS capabilities will require additional FRA review and approval. In addition to its safety benefits, PTC can support rail operations by increasing the capacity of high–density rail lines, improving overall efficiency.
Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra0107.htm

13. *January 08, Department of Transportation* — **DOT provides model legislation for private–sector involvement in transportation projects.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) on Monday, January 8, provided model legislation that would give states flexibility to contract with the private sector to invest in and manage transportation projects. The model legislation, part of the Department's initiative to reduce congestion in the nation's transportation system, is based on a survey of existing state laws that authorize public–private partnerships in building, owning or operating highways, mass transit, railroads, airports, seaports, or other transportation infrastructure. Recognizing that states need statutory authority to enter into public–private agreements, this legislation can be a model to help states reduce or remove barriers to private–sector investment in transportation infrastructure. The legislation is a starting point from which states can proceed to craft laws that are most appropriate for their unique needs, and provides useful guidance on what a public–private partnership agreement might look like. Issues addressed by the model legislation include which modes of transportation would be eligible for private investment, whether or when tolls may be collected, innovative procurement methods, upkeep requirements for leased roads, and provisions to be considered in an agreement with the private sector.
The model legislation is available on the Internet: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ppp/legislation.htm.
Source: http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot0407.htm

14. *January 08, ABC7 (CO)* — **Unruly passenger reported on flight from Denver.** An airline passenger was arrested Sunday, January 7, after authorities said he became unruly on a flight from Denver to Great Falls, MT, at one point knocking on the cockpit door. Authorities did not immediately release the man's name, and a federal prosecutor said it remained unclear early Monday whether the man would face any federal charges. Sabrena Mangum, a spokesperson for SkyWest, which operates United Express flights to and from Great Falls, said the passenger grew unruly during the flight, threatening and pushing a flight attendant and running through the aisle of the 50–seat jet. At one point, he went to the cockpit door and began knocking on it, and got into a confrontation with other passengers who attempted to calm him down, Mangum said. The pilots considered returning to Denver but continued to Great Falls, when the man appeared to calm down. Great Falls police officers were waiting to arrest him when the plane landed there. Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl Rostad said Monday that any federal charges would depend largely on how unruly the man was and whether his actions created significant inconvenience for the flight crew or passengers. If a flight has to make an unscheduled stop because of an unruly passenger, charges are almost certain, he said.
Source: http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/10696214/detail.html

15.

January 08, InformationWeek — **TSA to test broadband over powerline technology.** Using the powerlines in a building as cabling for an office LAN isn't common today, but a powerline networking project by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) could be a harbinger of things to come. The TSA is piloting powerline communications technology at several airports starting later this month. The agency will use products from Telkonet to help speed up network communications –– some still at the dial–up stage –– between field operatives at airports and Washington headquarters. The TSA plans eventually to wire airport passenger and other screening systems, cameras at ticket counters, and passport readers for Internet access using the technology. Though the project will start at only a few airports, it could spread to 380 as TSA embarks on a $100 million project to wire all airports internally for broadband access. There are two types of powerline communications systems: those that provide Internet access via outside powerlines, and those that act like LANs by using a building's internal electrical wiring for network transmission, which is what the TSA is doing.
Source: http://www.informationweek.com/hardware/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=196801520&subSection=Networking

16. *January 08, City News (CA)* — **Scorpion found on Toronto–bound flight.** Passengers aboard a Toronto–bound jet had a scorpion loose on the plane. The creature stung a man after breaking free from its confines on the plane Sunday, January 7, causing an hour–long delay at Pearson International Airport as officials looked to see if any others had gotten loose. The scorpion made it through security in Costa Rica in the passenger's backpack as he prepared to board the American Airlines flight headed for Toronto. The flight made its scheduled stopover in Miami and had taken off again for Toronto before the critter made its unwanted appearance. The scorpion was no pet –– the man had been on a camping trip in the country with his brother when the arachnid crawled into his bag without his seeing it. After the plane landed the traveler was treated by paramedics. The scorpion was killed when it was captured, and animal control officers identified it as a non–lethal species.
Source: http://www.citynews.ca/news/news_6710.aspx

17. *January 08, Associated Press* — **Coast Guard: Port of Miami package tests positive for explosives.** A package that was going to be loaded onto a cruise ship at the Port of Miami tested positive for plastic explosives Monday, January 8, the Coast Guard said. The package was tested six times, and each time it came back positive for the military–grade explosive known as C4, said Petty Officer James Judge. The package was destroyed, and a Miami–Dade County police bomb squad was inspecting the remains to determine if there were any explosives inside. Police spokesperson Bobby Williams said the instruments used to test the package sometimes give false positives. "We still need to check it out," Williams said. The package was included in provisions that were to be loaded aboard Royal Caribbean International's Majesty of the Seas. Explosives detection instruments gave the positive reading about 2 p.m. EST, the cruise line said. The FBI was monitoring the situation, spokesperson Judy Orihuela said.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/01/08/port.package.ap/index.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18.

January 08, Detroit News — **Postal worker accused of stealing gift cards.** A post office worker routinely opened Christmas and other greeting cards she handled and stole the gift cards inside, officials alleged Monday, January 8. Wanda Darling, who worked at a post office processing center in Royal Oak, MI, is charged with embezzlement of mail. Darling, 50, of Southfield, "admitted taking gift cards from greeting card mail for approximately the past year," according to an affidavit from a special agent with the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General. "She estimated opening approximately 50 to 100 greeting cards, and using approximately 25 gift cards from various stores, including Toys R Us, Target, Sears and Marshall Fields," said the affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit. The charge carries a penalty of up to five years in prison. Postal customers with zip codes beginning with 480 and 483 have complained about gift cards missing from their greeting cards since about October 2005, the affidavit said.
Source: http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070108/U PDATE/701080424

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Agriculture Sector

19. *January 09, UB Post (Mongolia)* — **Sheep pox makes a comeback.** Sheep pox has returned to Mongolia. For the first time since the 1970s, there has been an outbreak of this highly contagious viral disease in five different soums of four eastern and central aimags. Veterinary laboratory tests confirmed, the week of January 1, that sheep there had died of this disease. Check points on the major motor roads to Ulaanbaatar are ensuring that no raw meat enters Ulaanbaatar, and are destroying any suspicious meat, skins, internal organs and wool they find. The outbreak was first reported on December 17, 2006 by two herders in Asgat soum, Sukhbaatar aimag. They had watched 29 sheep die before they realized something was seriously amiss and called in local veterinary experts. At that time around 30 more of the animals in their barns showed symptoms of the disease. Strict quarantine of livestock was imposed all over the aimag and also in Galshar soum of Khentii aimag, where 33 sheep were reported to be infected. By January 2, 29 more sheep had died in Asgat soum, two each in Galshar soum and in Bayan soum of Tov aimag, and four in Gobisumber aimag.
Sheep pox information: http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/fiches/a_A100.htm
Source: http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/main/index.php?option=com_conten t&task=view&id=316&Itemid=36

20. *January 06, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Leaf damage from soybean rust joins defoliation as cause of losses.** An international research team developing a model to predict yield loss from Asian soybean rust has found that damaged leaves can greatly impact the crop's ability to absorb radiant energy, reducing yields. The team is made up of members from Brazil and Louisiana State University and led by University of Kentucky College of Agriculture crop physiologist Saratha Kumudini. They began their work in 2005 in Brazil by mimicking the disease –– removing leaves from noninfected plants at the same pace as infected plants. Their initial thoughts were that defoliation was the prime culprit, but it was found that simply mimicking defoliation did not have a good one–to–one correlation with the actual yield losses from infected fields. Measurements were also taken on the amount of necrotic lesions from soybean rust on leaves that remained on the plant. Using a healthy area leaf index that takes into account necrotic lesions and defoliation, the researchers got a much closer relationship

between yields in their test plots and plots with soybean rust.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=1010

21. *January 05, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found on kudzu in Florida.** The first Asian soybean rust reported in calendar year 2007 was found growing and sporulating this week on green kudzu in four Florida counties. Scouts found the rust in Gadsden County in the Panhandle and in the north−central Florida counties of Alachua, Hernando and Marion. Officials say that if kudzu in the middle of the state and farther south is infected, it is likely producing spores now, too. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture records, these same four counties were among the first dozen in the country to have rust reported in January 2006.
Source: http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=1008

22. *January 05, Kansas−State Research and Extension* — **Emerging swine disease tightens gap between producers and scientists.** Porcine Circovirus Associated Diseases (PCVAD) was discovered in the early 1990s by two Canadian veterinarians. The disease is associated with an increased mortality rate in weaning pigs. "The first PCVAD case in Kansas was discovered in November 2005 and now we're seeing new cases almost every week," said Lisa Tokach, an Abilene, KS, veterinarian. It's predicted that every swine herd in the U.S. is "infected" with PCVAD, however, not all herds are "affected," Tokach said. "Infected" means that porcine circovirus type 2 is present in the herd, but clinical signs may not be present, whereas, "affected" means that the herd is displaying symptoms associated with the virus. Kansas State University scientists are conducting field studies and laboratory diagnostics, developing a disease model, and working with swine producers to test PCV2 vaccines, said Bob Rowland, virologist for K−State's College of Veterinary Medicine. "This is definitely a new approach to infectious disease research, in which we're working closely with vets and producers," Rowland said. "The producers have been extraordinary in helping us out since labs tend to be isolated and with PCV2. For the first time, we're getting e−mails from producers and are developing relationships with them.
PCVAD information: http://www.thepigsite.com/pmws/
Source: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/news/topstory.asp

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Food Sector

23. *January 07, Korea Times (South Korea)* — **Korean homemakers reject U.S. beef.** A larger majority of Korean housewives are reluctant to buy U.S. beef for fear of mad cow disease and other negative images, a survey showed Sunday, January 7. As many as 70.2 percent of housewives aged 30 to 40 replied that they would not buy or were disinclined to buy U.S. beef, Korea Gallup said in the survey. Only 10.6 percent answered that they would buy American beef. Korea Gallup conducted the survey −− commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry −− on consumption sentiment for American beef on 1,213 housewives from across the country. The largest portion or 35 percent of the surveyed cited mad cow disease worries as the main reason for being reluctant to buy U.S. beef, about 10 percent picked their image of U.S. beef as untrustworthy and 7.8 percent answered poor quality, the survey showed. The survey was released at a critical time, as South Korea and the U.S. were due to hold talks this week to resolve a prolonged row over Seoul's repeated rejection of U.S. beef shipments.

Water Sector

24. *January 08, WSB (GA)* — **Storms knock out water service to thousands.** Water service was restored Monday, January 8, to thousands of homes and businesses in DeKalb, GA. They were left without water since Sunday, January 7, when a storm blew out power at the Scott Candler treatment plant. The customers left dry included the DeKalb Medical Center and the Egleston Children's Center. "DeKalb County crews have restored all power to the Scott Candler Filter Plant and officials are still investigating the cause of the power outage," said Alicia Pennie, DeKalb Water and Sewer Public Information Officer.
Source: http://www.wsbtv.com/news/10693834/detail.html

Public Health Sector

25. *January 08, People's Daily (China)* — **Vietnam conducts anti−bird flu rehearsal.** Vietnam on Sunday, January 7, implemented a rehearsal on combating potential bird flu outbreaks among people in northern Quang Ninh province, Vietnam News Agency reported. Over 700 people in the province tried to deal with a mock situation, in which four members in a family are infected with bird flu virus strain H5N1, and 80 people from 60 other households nearby also contract the disease, some of them contacted with dead fowls five days before. Specifically, they tried to treat bird flu patients, stamp out the outbreaks, and conduct some preventive measures.
Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200701/08/eng20070108_339043.ht ml

26. *January 08, CBS42 (TX)* — **Congress avenue re−opens following bird deaths.** Austin, TX, police have re−opened a 10−block stretch of Congress Avenue, hours after 63 dead birds were found in Downtown Austin. A few of those birds were found alive and had awkward movements and the inability to fly. Authorities said Monday, January 8, that the birds don't pose a threat to public health. "At this time, based on that preliminary evidence, we do not feel that there's a threat to the public health, but we do want to take every precaution necessary to ensure the public's safety," said Adolfo Valadez with Austin−Travis County Health and Human Services. Congress Avenue and one block on either side of the street were shut down. They still don't know what killed the birds. However, one bird has been sent to a lab in Ames, IA, to be tested for avian flu. Another bird is being sent to College Station, TX, to determine whether it might have been poisoned.
Source: http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=5904817

27. *January 07, Agence France−Presse* — **Thai police seize illegal bird flu vaccine.** Thai police said they had seized 1,800 bottles of contraband bird flu vaccine worth over $558,000, in what is believed to be the biggest such bust in Thailand. Koh Samui's marine police said they arrested three Thai men at a bus station on the island on Saturday, January 6, as they attempted

to smuggle the 8.5 ounce bottles of avian influenza vaccine into the kingdom. The vaccine, made in China and destined for Bangkok via Hong Kong, was for use on poultry and was banned in Thailand in 2005 for fear that its widespread use could cause the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus to mutate.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070107/hl_afp/healthfluthailand_070107223224

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Government Sector

28. *January 06, Boston Globe* — **Boston considers $1.5M system to track gunshots.** Boston city councilors, law enforcement officials, and community leaders are pressing City Hall to come up with $1.5 million to buy a promising acoustic gunshot−detection system. The sensor system could blanket a 5.6−square−mile swath of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods−−the source of 80 to 85 percent of calls citywide reporting shots fired−−and give officers a jump on arresting suspects, improve police response time to 911 calls, and possibly reduce firearm violence, proponents say. Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said he believes the technology would help prosecutors win more gun cases and would require a "relatively modest investment," given the city's $2 billion annual budget. The system relies on a network of sensors, roughly the size of a coffee can, that by triangulating can locate gunfire from as far as one and one−half miles away within seconds, according to its manufacturer. It is so sensitive and sophisticated that it can isolate gunshots from other sounds, and can even distinguish between shots fired from different kinds of weapons, the company says. Once the sensors confirm a gunshot, the system immediately notifies police dispatchers, who can then alert nearby officers.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/01/06/city_hall_pushed_to_buy_15m_system_to_track_gunshots/

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *January 08, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares emergency federal aid for Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas.** The head of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Monday, January 8, that federal aid has been made available to supplement Colorado's state and local response efforts in the area struck by struck by record snow during the period of December 28−31, 2006. FEMA has also announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Nebraska to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms during the period of December 19, 2006, through January 1, 2007. In addition, FEMA has announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of Kansas to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm during the period of December 28−31, 2006.
For further detail on Colorado: http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7426
For further detail on Nebraska: http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7405
For further detail on Kansas: http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7406

Source: http://www.fema.gov/news/recentnews.fema

30. *January 08, Delta Democrat Times (MS)* — **Bolivar County, Mississippi, agencies upgrade communications capabilities.** Work was being conducted last week at the Cleveland, MS, Police Department as part of the county's 911 system to upgrade the communications capabilities of the emergency agencies in Bolivar County. "In Bolivar County, we have some agencies with low–band units, and some have high–band units," said Bolivar County Emergency Management Agency Director Bill Quinton. "With this new system, we will be able to communicate with agencies throughout the county." Bolivar County has two main communications locations. The Bolivar County Sheriff's Department serves as the county's primary public safety answer center (PSAC) and the Cleveland Police Department serves as the secondary PSAC. "We recently shifted over to the 800 megahertz system that really enhances our communications capabilities," said Charles Gilmer, who serves as the PSAC administrator at the Sheriff's Department. Officials said once the work is completed at the Cleveland Police Department, the county's communications program will be implemented in both of its PSAC locations. "It will bring the communication of all law enforcement agencies and first responders together," said Cleveland Police Chief Drew Warren. "Prior to now, we have all operated on different frequencies.
Source: http://www.ddtonline.com/articles/2007/01/07/news/news5.txt

31. *January 05, Bangor Daily News (ME)* — **Disaster response glitches reviewed in Maine.** At a recent disaster drill involving seven hospitals and several emergency management agencies in northern and eastern Maine, communications broke down in a big way –– and not as part of the carefully orchestrated earthquake scenario. First, the plan to contact 150 participants' pagers with a single call failed due to a technology problem. Plan B involved having someone dial each individual number by hand, resulting in "suboptimal" communication with the players. And an ambitious conference call –– aimed at getting all the participants briefed and up to speed at the same time –– ultimately flopped when AT&T lost the connection. According to Kathy Knight of the Northeastern Maine Regional Resource Center, who helped coordinate the drill on December 12, the failure highlights the importance of being able to communicate efficiently –– or at all –– with other responders in the event of a large–scale emergency. "The good thing was realizing how really important that [conference call] was going to be," Knight said at a regional disaster planning meeting on Thursday, January 4. "Regardless of the failures, we learned it's an essential part of the plan."
Source: http://www.bangordailynews.com/news/t/news.aspx?articleid=14 4871&zoneid=500

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *January 08, VNUNet* — **Cisco patches Clean Access flaws.** Cisco Systems has acknowledged a pair of vulnerabilities in its Clean Access networking software that could allow for unauthorized access and viewing of database files. Users can remove the vulnerabilities by upgrading their software or by installing a patch, said the company. Clean Access is a pair of software applications that allows servers to scan any systems that attempt to access a network for required patches and software. The vulnerabilities affect Shared Secret, a log–on authentication component, and Readable Snapshots, a system for manually backing up

databases. Users can remove both of the vulnerabilities by upgrading their Clean Access software, said Cisco. Versions 3.4.6.2, 4.0.4, 4.1.0 and later all contain a fix for the vulnerability. The company has also made a patch available for users who do not want to upgrade.
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2172005/cisco–patches–flaw s–clean

33. *January 08, IDG News Service* — **Wi–Fi body to simplify security.** The group that certifies Wi–Fi products aims to make more wireless LANs secure by taking some of the work out of locking them down. The Wi–Fi Alliance announced on Monday, January 8, at the International Consumer Electronics Show its Wi–Fi Protected Setup (WPS) specification, which lays out an easier process for setting up a secure wireless LAN. The group also revealed the first devices certified under WPS, though it will take a few more months for consumer products to reach store shelves. Wi–Fi security has greatly improved since home users first embraced wireless LANs a few years ago, but most consumers still don't use the available tools because they are too hard to set up, said Frank Hanzlik, managing director of the Wi–Fi Alliance. WPS cuts the number of steps required to secure a new network, he said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/01/08/HNwifialliance_1.h tml

34. *January 07, New York Times* — **Attack of the zombie computers is growing threat.** With growing sophistication, botnets are being blamed for the huge spike in spam that bedeviled the Internet in recent months, as well as fraud and data theft. Security researchers have been concerned about botnets for some time because they automate and amplify the effects of viruses and other malicious programs. What is new is the vastly escalating scale of the problem –– and the precision with which some of the programs can scan computers for specific information to drain money from online bank accounts and stock brokerages. Although there is a wide range of estimates of the overall infection rate, the scale and the power of the botnet programs have clearly become immense. In recent years, botnet attacks have increasingly become endemic, forcing increasingly stringent security responses. "It represents a threat but it's one that is hard to explain," said David J. Farber, a Carnegie Mellon computer scientist who was an Internet pioneer. "It's an insidious threat, and what worries me is that the scope of the problem is still not clear to most people."
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/07/technology/07net.html?_r=1 &ref=technology&oref=slogin

35. *January 06, eWeek* — **Mac OS X developers watch Month of Apple Bugs.** Developers of applications for Apple's Mac OS X have been watching the Month of Apple Bugs (MOAB) project closely, and are generally in favor of the project's goal of uncovering OS flaws. But they, and security companies, have questions about the MOAB group's method, which involves making their findings public immediately, instead of first alerting Apple Computer. "In the long term, this project is making OS X more secure," said Gus Mueller, a developer who sells his software through his company Flying Meat. "However, in the short term, these bugs, once shown, can be used destructively," he added. "I think the correct way to handle the exploits would have been to inform Apple, and give them something like four to six weeks to get a fix out," Mueller said.
Source: http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2079624,00.asp

36.

January 05, IDG News Service — **Changes in e–voting likely coming, experts say.** Rules requiring independent audit mechanisms for electronic–voting machines are likely coming, but the changes won't happen overnight, a group of advocates said Friday, January 5. More than 18,000 undervotes in a still–disputed Florida congressional election from November show the need for independent audit mechanisms, said panelists at an event sponsored by several advocacy groups, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Common Cause. "We're at this point...where I believe there's a consensus that we need to do something," said Trey Grayson, secretary of state in Kentucky. "However, the consensus is ahead of the solution." While many e–voting security critics have called for printouts to back up e–voting results, printers currently in use have encountered problems in recent elections, said Courtenay Strickland–Bhatia, president and chief executive of the Verified Voting Foundation. Some printers have jammed, and with some e–voting machines printouts weren't easily accessible for voters who wanted to double–check their votes, she said. But e–voting machines need audit mechanisms and a "transparent" design that allows voters to understand how votes are counted, she added. Without an audit mechanism, "it simply is not possible to know if a problem has happened" in an e–voting machine, she said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/01/05/HNevotingfix_1.htm l

37. *January 05, CNET News* — **Microsoft pulls four planned patches.** Microsoft has pulled four bulletins from its announced list of Patch Tuesday fixes, but did not specify why it was backpedaling on the security releases. It now plans to issue four security bulletins on Tuesday, January 9, rather than the eight originally announced, the software giant said Friday in an updated notice on its Website. Three bulletins will contain fixes for Office, at least one of which will be rated "critical," Microsoft said.
Source: http://news.com.com/Microsoft+pulls+four+planned+patches/210 0–1002_3–6147705.html

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons Sector

Nothing to report.
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General Sector

38. *January 08, MarketWatch* — **New York City mayor says gas smell source unknown, appears not dangerous.** New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday, January 8, that the source of a mysterious gas smell that covered a wide area of the city and was also detected across the Hudson River in New Jersey remains unknown, but there was no indication that air is unsafe to breathe. The gas−like odor set off concern around the city, disrupting some transit service, prompting office buildings to evacuate and leading hundreds of people to flood 911 dispatchers to figure out what was happening. The smell also caused some commuting problems. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey suspended PATH train service between Hoboken and 33rd Street in Manhattan. Terrorism was not a concern, a federal official said. "It is still early but there is no indication of terrorism and there is no credible intelligence to suggest any imminent threat to the homeland or to New York at this time," said Russ Knocke, spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security. "There are no abnormal changes in the gas flow in our gas transmission system. If there was a big leak, we would see a change in the gas flow," said Consolidated Edison, Inc. spokesperson Chris Olert.
Source: http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/nyc−mayor−says−gas−sme ll/story.aspx?guid=%7B34A20D92−6260−4688−A794−5A36BEAE3FC2%7 D

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